



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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15 FEBRUARY 1965

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1. Vietnam

There have been no major developments.

Hanoi and Viet Cong propaganda continues to promise "resolute strikes" in South Vietnam. The Viet Cong have continued widespread harassment, but have not undertaken new spectacular actions.

In Saigon, Phan Huy Quat is still working toward forming a government. The present hitch seems to be that General Khanh is insisting on a somewhat unsavory civilian as interior minister. Khanh, who has been blocked from playing a major governmental role by the Armed Forces Council, may in turn be trying to block the formation of any civilian government.

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Photography of the Chinese Communist airbase at Mengtzu, near the North Vietnamese border, shows 65 MIG-15 or -17 jet fighters there, 28 more than were there in the last photograph three months ago.

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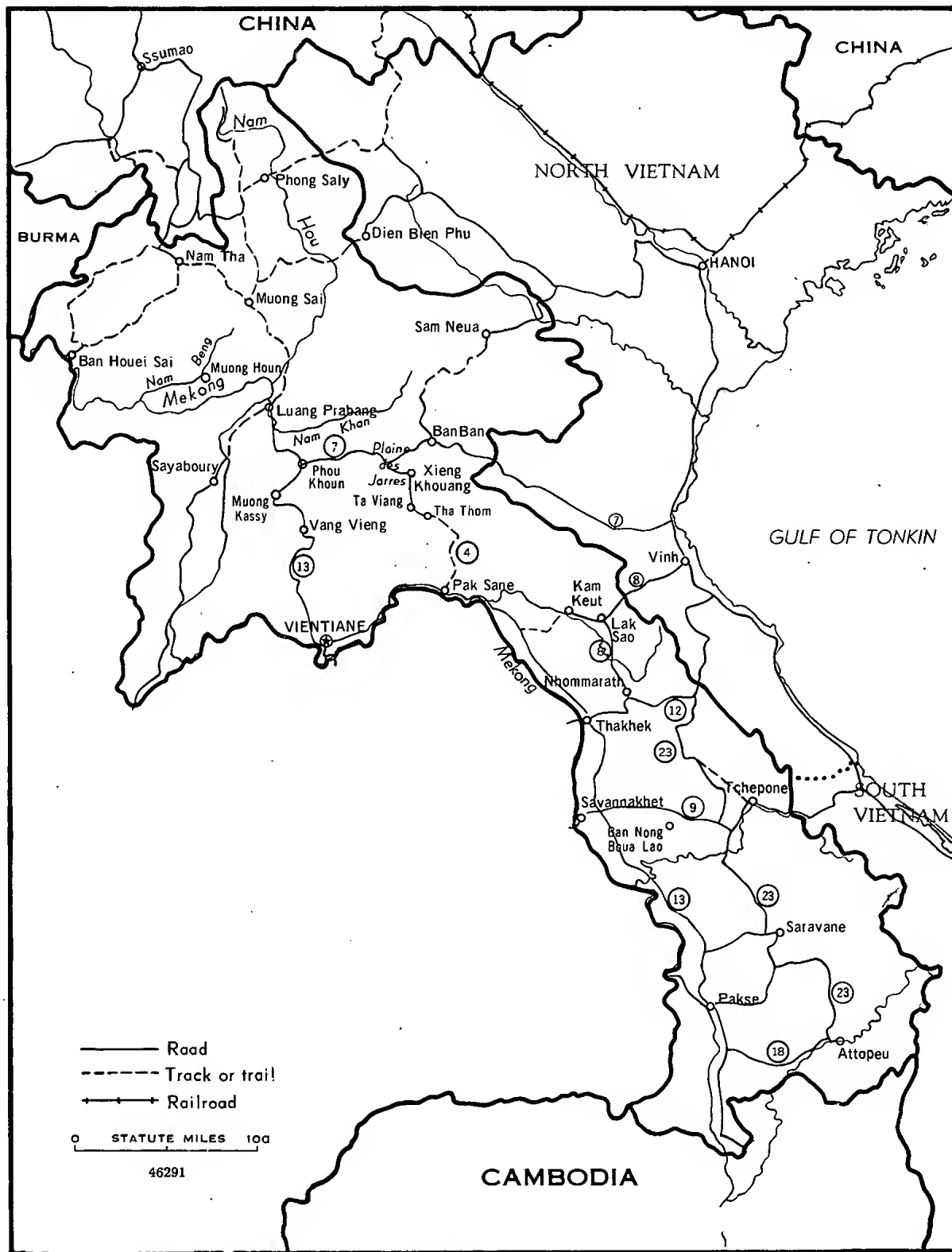
2. USSR

Ambassador Kohler speculated Sunday that the pattern of several temporary restrictions on embassy travel in western USSR might indicate that troops from the USSR are moving west to take part in large-scale Warsaw Pact maneuvers, perhaps in Germany. He suggests that this could be a way of putting pressure on the US over Vietnam.

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LAOS



3. Laos

The Communists yesterday captured a Meo guerrilla base 35 miles southwest of Samneua. (See map.) A government counterattack, supported by T-28 strikes, is planned. The attacking Communist force, however, is well equipped with antiaircraft and the T-28s have been less effective in this action than in previous Laotian engagements.

4. Communist China

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5. USSR

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6. Mexico

President Diaz Ordaz and his government appear to be reassessing Mexican policy toward Cuba. They are taking a tougher line toward Cuban activities in Mexico, possibly as a way of testing Mexican public reaction, but give no sign yet of breaking relations.

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7. Sudan

The leftist-dominated cabinet has apparently decided to give in to the non-Communist parties. Cabinet negotiations are now under way in Khartoum. Ansari tribesmen, mobilized in Khartoum last week for antigovernment demonstrations, are still standing by to forestall any leftist action in the streets.

8. Uganda

The circumstances behind Premier Obote's charge that Congolese aircraft bombed Ugandan border towns opposite Mahagi in the Congo on 13 February are not yet clear.

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(See map.)

It is possible that mortar rounds fired during mercenary operations to retake Mahagi may have fallen within Uganda. On the other hand, Obote may be creating a smokescreen to cover and justify Ugandan support to the Congolese rebels.

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